



Life Course

Childhood Risk Factor

Brief Name

ACE: Socioeconomic Hardship

Indicator

Percent of children whose families often had financial difficulties, such as not having money for food or other necessities.

Description

This is a proxy measure for toxic stress and is included as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Parents answer the question, *"Since [child's name] was born, how often has it been very hard to get by on your family's income, for example, it was hard to cover the basics like food or housing? Would you say very often, somewhat often, not very often, or never?"*

WI	US	Best	Worst
25.4%	25.7%	20.1%	34.2%
		MD	AZ

Year

2011/2012

Numerator

Number answering "Very Often" or "Somewhat Often"

Denominator

Children aged 0-17

Importance

Food insecurity, or other physiological needs, can be sources of chronic stress that hinder a child's ability to develop successful relationships, learn effectively, or otherwise go through normal childhood development (Maslow, 1943).

Limitations

The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) is completed by the parent or caregiver who may be uncomfortable disclosing financial difficulties.

Source

NSCH 2011/12. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org. Maslow, Abraham Harold. "A theory of human motivation." *Psychological Review*, 50.4 (1943): 370.